Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01

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O R 121835Z MAR 74 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7473 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 6228

E.O. 11252: GDS TAGS: PFOR, FR, JA

SUBJECT: POMPIDOU TRIP TO JAPAN

- 1. AFP AND LE MONDE REPORT MARCH 12 THAT AUTHORIZED SOURCES ANNOUNCED THAT "IT IS PREMATURE" TO FIX DATES OF POMPIDOU'S VISIT TO JAPAN. VISIT WAS UNOFFICIALLY BUT AUTHORITATIVELY ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 8 AS TAKING PLACE APRIL 23 TO 26. QUAI OFFICIAL HAD CONFIRMED THESE AS WORKING DATES BUT NOTED THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIAL GOJ/GOF ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATES.
- 2. LE MONDE STORY CONCLUDES THAT THE TRIP HAS BEEN DELAYED AND COMMENTED THAT THE STORY RISKED RELAUNCHING RUMORS ABOUT POMPIDOU'S HEALTH.
- 3. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA (FAR EAST) DUZER SAID THAT HE WAS MYSTIFIED BY THE REPORT. HE HAD HEARD NOTHING ABOUT A POSTPONEMENT. AFTER CHECKING WITH AN INFORMED OFFICE, PERHAPS THE ELYSEE, DUZER TOLD US THAT WE SHOULD TAKE AS AUTHORITATIVE ONLY THE DIRECT QUOTE, WHICH WE HAVE TRANSLATED AS FOLLOWS: "ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT AN OFFICIAL VISIT CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO JAPAN HAS BEEN

IN PREPARATION FOR SOME TIME, CONVERSATIONS ARE STILL CONTINUING ON THIS MATTER BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. NEWS THAT THE DATES OF THE TRIP HAVE ALREADY BEEN FIXED ARE AT LEAST PREMATURE." WE GATHER THAT DUZER WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY TO LIMIT HIS COMMENTS TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND TO GIVE NO SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT IT COULD MEAN.

4. JAPANESE EMBASSY IS SIMILARLY CONFUSED BY THE STORY. COUNSELOR KATO SAID THAT THEY ARE UNAWARE OF ANY CHANGES AND THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THE STORY HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 12 MAR 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS06228

Document Number: 1974PARIS06228 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: PARIS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740350/aaaabuxc.tel Line Count: 74

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 23 APR 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: POMPIDOU TRIP TO JAPAN

TAGS: PFOR, FR, JA, (POMPIDOU, GEORGE)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005